

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 34, 36-38, 40-43, 45-49, 51-55 & 57-62 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,125,240 to Knippscheer et al. ("Knippscheer"); claims 1, 3-9, 11-22, 24-28, 30-32, 63-66, 70-74, 77-80, 87-91, 94, 96-99, 101-105, 107-111 and 114-115 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,800,777 to Jehan ("Jehan"); claims 2, 10, 29, 33, 69, 86, 95, 100 and 106 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Jehan in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,516,487 to Rosanethal et al. (Rosenthal); claims 23, 67-68 and 84-85 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Jehan in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,127,928 to Issacman et al. ("Issacman"); and claims 35, 39, 44, 50 and 56 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Knippscheer.

The Office Action objects to claims 75-76, 81-83, 92-93, 112-113 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. In the Office action, claims 63, 76-77, 80, 82-83, 92, 102 and 113-115 are amended and claims 1-62, 73-75, 81, 84-85, 94-101 and 110-112 have been canceled.

Allowable Matter and Claim Objections

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging the allowable subject matter of claims 75-76, 81-83, 92-93, 112-113. Applicant has amended the claims to incorporate identified allowable matter into independent claims 63, 77 and 102 and to redraft claim 92 into independent form. Hence, independent claim 63 now includes matter previously presented in claims 74 and 75, independent claim 77 now includes matter previously presented in claim 81 and independent claim 102 now includes matter previously presented in claims 111 and 112. Claim 92 is amended such that it is rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 77 and intervening claim 91.

Therefore, for at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 63, 77, 92 and 102 are allowable over the prior art. Further, dependent claims 64-72, 76, 78-80, 82-83, 86-91, 93, 103-109 and 113-115 ultimately depend from allowable independent claims and are allowable for at least this reason.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103

Applicant has amended the claims to incorporate matter indicated by the Examiner as allowable. Consequently, the rejections of the claims are rendered moot. Nevertheless, Applicant reserves the right to resubmit the rejected claims in one or more continuation applications. Applicant will address any outstanding rejections associated with resubmitted claims during prosecution of continuation application.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, and in view of the foregoing, the claims are believed to be in form for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 502212. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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